

Society for Psychical Research

31 Tavistock Square · London · WC1

SUPPLEMENT

TO

JOURNAL

January-February 1950, Vol. 35, No. 656

FOR MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR 1949

I. THE PRESIDENCY

A GRATIFYING feature of the past year has been the increase of personal discussion between British and American psychical researchers, which should promote the progress of research in both countries.

Professor Gardner Murphy of New York, distinguished alike in psychology and psychical research, accepted the invitation of the Council to become President for the year 1949-50, and at the beginning of June he paid a most welcome visit to this country. On 8 June, after a reception at which many members enjoyed a personal talk with him, he delivered his Presidential Address entitled 'Psychical Research and Personality'. This has since been published in *Proceedings*. During his visit several of our active workers had the advantage of consulting him on their problems of current research.

2. DR WEST'S VISIT TO AMERICA

During the summer Dr West visited Canada and the United States, making the acquaintance of many members both of our own and of the American Society. On the invitation of Dr Rhine he visited Duke University, where he stayed for four weeks, observing the work in progress there and getting to know Dr Rhine and the staff of the Parapsychology Laboratory. On his return to London in October he gave an enthusiastic account of his visit at a private meeting of the Society. He speaks most highly of the warm-hearted hospitality extended to him by

Professor Murphy, the American S.P.R., and Dr Rhine and the staff of the Parapsychology Laboratory of Duke University. While in America he addressed the Society for Parapsychology, Washington. His treatment everywhere was more that of an old friend than a visiting foreigner. It seemed to him that American investigators were more familiar with the work done by our Society than British investigators with American research.

It is hoped that the personal contacts established by the visits of Professor Murphy to England and Dr West to America will be extended.

3. MYERS MEMORIAL LECTURE FOR 1950

The Council have learnt with great pleasure of an intended visit by Dr Rhine to this country in 1950, and have invited him during it to deliver the Myers Memorial Lecture. They are very glad to be able to announce that he has accepted this invitation.

4. INVITATION TO DR BETTY HUMPHREY

The Council are also glad to announce that Dr Betty Humphrey, who has taken a large share in the experimental work at Duke University, has accepted their invitation to visit England in 1950 with a view to collaborating in experiments here and examining data already collected by English investigators. Dr Humphrey hopes to be accompanied by Miss MacMahan, another member of the staff at Duke.

5. FINANCIAL POSITION : THE APPEAL FOR FUNDS

In the Annual Report for 1948 the Council, while noting with satisfaction the increase in membership (which still continues), pointed out that expenses were increasing still more rapidly, and urged Members to respond generously to the Appeal for funds, then shortly to be issued. The Appeal was issued in March, and resulted in the Society receiving an addition to its income for 1949 of £382 13s. 6d., and the prospect of an addition for each succeeding year of some £250. The Council wish very warmly to thank members for this response, which represents, they realise, no little self-sacrifice in present conditions and is most encouraging evidence of confidence in the future of psychical research and of the Society. They also tender their warmest thanks to Mr Osborn who, in addition to his heavy duties as Hon. Editor of the *Journal*, gave much time and trouble to making the Appeal a success.

6. REORGANIZATION

(a) Thanks to the response to the Appeal, the Council have been able to plan for the future in a way that will, in their opinion, avoid curtailment of the Society's research activities, or any further restriction of the printing programme. The Council did not, however, consider that the financial position would justify the retention of a full-time Research Officer after the autumn. As already announced in the *Journal*, Dr West earlier in the year notified the Council of his intention to commence practice as a psychiatrist when his engagement as salaried Research Officer terminated; he offered, however, to continue, so far as his professional work permitted, to carry on research for the Society as an honorary Officer. The Council gratefully accepted this offer.

The new arrangement, which provides for Dr West continuing to reside rent-free at 31 Tavistock Square, came into effect on 1 November. The Council take this opportunity to place on record their thanks to Dr West for his work as Research Officer, and their best wishes for his success in his profession.

(b) To meet the situation thus created the Council decided to delegate responsibility for some of the principal lines of research to Committees consisting of members of the Council and of the Society who had special experience of and interest in those matters, and could give time to the work. Three Committees were approved as follows:

- (1) For Quantitative Experiments: Mrs Goldney, Mr J. Fraser Nicol, Mr Osborn, Mr Parsons, Dr Soal, Dr West. This Committee, which was already in existence, was confirmed in its functions.
- (2) For the Physical Phenomena of the Séance-room, and for Poltergeists and Haunts: Mrs Heywood, Lord Charles Hope, Mr Osborn, Professor Stratton, Admiral Strutt, Dr R. Wilson.
- (3) For spontaneous 'Phantasms' (excluding Haunts) and for Trance mediumship and Automatic writing: Mrs Gatty, the Hon. Mrs Gay, Mrs Longman, Mrs Richmond, Mr Osborn, Mr Salter, Mr Tyrrell.

(c) The Council also decided that it would be desirable to appoint a part-time Organizing Secretary, who would help to organize the work of the Society and attend to such inquiries and correspondence as did not fall within Miss Horsell's duties as Secretary. Such a post could only be filled by someone with considerable knowledge of the Society's work and experience in doing it. The Council were fortunately able to persuade Mrs

Goldney to accept the post, which entails regular attendance at the rooms for two and a half days a week.

(d) The appointment of an Organizing Secretary should make it unnecessary except in special circumstances to engage clerical assistance. The Council wish to record their warm thanks to Miss N. J. Lord and Mrs J. S. Woollard for the assistance given by them during the first and second halves of the year respectively.

(e) The Council estimate that the net saving resulting from this reorganization will amount to £450 in a full year.

7. THE LIBRARY

Research cannot be carried on without a good Library. The Society's Library should contain not only all books of importance bearing directly on psychical research, but also a representative selection of books on such subjects as philosophy and psychology. In several branches the Library had not in recent years been kept up to date. The Council decided in March to separate the Library and Publicity Committees, and, later, to make the Library Committee a non-recurrent grant of £140 to bring the Library up to date by the purchase of new books and the binding of periodicals. The Committee has also reorganized the list of periodicals obtained by subscription or received in exchange for the Society's own publications.

The Council's thanks are especially due to Mr J. Fraser Nicol for undertaking the lengthy task of compiling a list of books which the Library lacks, for keeping a special watch on publishers' announcements and booksellers' catalogues, and for arranging for the purchase of new books.

In order to make the Library a more effective tool for research, it is intended, as soon as conditions permit, to prepare a subject index.

Increasing use of the Library has been made by Members and by the National Central Library in the borrowing of books. During the year 875 books were borrowed by Members of the Society and 77 by the National Central Library.

8. GUIDE TO LITERATURE

The Council consider it very important that Members, particularly new Members, should be able to follow the current work of the Society by gaining knowledge of the past history of the subject from trustworthy sources. The Council have accordingly published and distributed to Members 'A Selected Guide to Publications in English' which, if on too small a scale to include all the

literature that a student might profitably read, offers no encouragement to him to waste his time on material that would give him a misleading view of our subject.

9. THE COMBINED INDEX : PART III

Research has long been hampered by the absence of an Index that would assist the student to find his way about the many volumes of *Proceedings* and *Journal* which have been issued since the production of Part II of the Combined Index in 1914, but for many years the Council hesitated to incur the very heavy expenditure of preparing and issuing a new Part. However, in 1940 the Council decided to put in hand the preliminary work, and, at the end of the War, to allocate part of the accumulated savings effected during the War to the production of Part III of the Index, on a smaller scale than the two previous Parts. Dr West kindly undertook to prepare this, and Part III has now been circulated to all Members. It covers the volumes of *Proceedings* and *Journal* issued between 1914 and 1945.

10. RESEARCH

Paragraphs 5-9 above describe the measures which, in the Council's view, are likely in existing conditions to be most effective in promoting future research. To turn to work done during the past year, Dr West reports as follows :

I contributed an article to the March-April issue of the *Journal* putting forward some suggestions for future investigation. No one, so far as I know, has taken up any of the suggestions. I fancy that the chief reason for this is that psychical research has now become a difficult and very complicated field. Few today can afford to give the very large amount of time that is required to master and execute any major piece of research.

One suggestion from this article—that concerning the effect of subliminal perceptions—I myself made some attempt to follow up. A series of sound recordings was prepared, each consisting of a few sentences of boldly spoken words accompanied by the name of one or other of the Zener symbols repeated over and over again in an undertone that was just audible but sufficiently soft to remain unnoticed by listeners unaware of its presence. The recordings were played over to subjects individually, and after each hearing the subject was required to record a guess at a Zener symbol. The object of the experiment was to find out whether under these conditions subjects would unknowingly tend to 'guess' the particular symbol that had just been played

to them. Too few trials were carried out to reach any conclusion, and the experiments were abandoned owing to the technical difficulties encountered. A similar project using pictures with visible but camouflaged symbols had also had to be set aside, but the material is available for anyone wanting to try the experiment.

An experiment was carried out to determine whether spontaneous psychic experiences are attributes of any particular type of personality. A questionnaire consisting of ten questions relating to spontaneous psychic experiences and belief in the genuineness of psychic powers, together with a Bernreuter Personality Inventory and Cattell's questionnaire for tendency to conversion hysteria,¹ were kindly given by Miss E. G. Mountford to the members of her psychology class. Fifty-four persons filled in the questionnaire anonymously and returned them to the Society. Mr J. Fraser Nicol is at present engaged on a statistical analysis of the results.

The work of devising an improved method for assessing mediumistic material, with which Mr A. M. Western and myself were at one time associated (see last Annual Report), has been carried forward by Mr Christopher Scott. A summary of some of my own experiments in this field appeared in the September-October issue of the *Journal*.

Many more spontaneous cases were reported to the Research Department during the year than it was possible thoroughly to investigate. One case of a remarkable dream which was reported to have led to the discovery of a lost article was carefully examined. When, after great difficulty, witnesses were traced, not only was no substantiation forthcoming, but it began to appear that the whole affair was a fantasy based upon some deep-seated desire in the mind of the person who reported the dream.

Some cases of outstandingly accurate mediumistic communications have been reported by an Australian sensitive. It has not been found possible to obtain any clear example in which the information given could not have been available to the medium.

Since the reorganization of the Society's arrangements for research, I have devoted myself as far as possible only to one particular piece of research in experimental E.S.P. This is estimated to take about nine months to complete.

Among other pieces of research may be mentioned the E.S.P. experiments by Mr J. Fraser Nicol and Mr Edward Osborn

¹ R. Cattell, *A Guide to Mental Measurement*, 2nd ed. (London, 1948) pp. 274-7.

referred to in the last Annual Report. In these a total of 15,769 guesses was obtained from 26 percipients. The total number of hits was 3,193, which is 39.2 in excess of expectation and is not significant. The experiments were not, however, without interest, and it is intended to issue a report in due course.

Several cases of poltergeists and haunts have been investigated by various Officers and Members of the Society. Two of these were considered worthy of being reported in the *Journal*, one, investigated by Lord Charles Hope and Mrs Heywood, in the *Journal* for May-June, and the other, investigated by Mr Osborn, in the November-December issue.

As a result of the B.B.C. broadcast on Telepathy in the 'Focus' series on 7 December (based largely on material supplied by the Society), and the appeal in it to listeners to send the Society accounts of telepathic experiences, some four hundred communications have been received. These are being classified by a member, Mr L. R. A. Baker, to whom the Council's thanks are due. Any cases that seem promising will be followed up.

II. THE JOURNAL

Until the present year the *Journal* (with the exception of a few issues) has been circulated to Members and Associates only. The Council have now decided that it should be made available to the public, and that matters concerning the internal administration of the Society should be printed in a Supplement privately circulated to Members and Associates. The first issue of the new series (vol. 35, no. 654) appeared in the autumn in a form much more attractive than that of the old private issues. The new venture should do much to promote general interest in our work.

12. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

By a Special Resolution passed at an Extraordinary General meeting of the Society on 30 May, the Articles of Association were modified in such a way as to prevent the compulsory retirement of Council members at the age of seventy under S.185 of the Companies Act 1948. Before this Resolution was passed the Hon. Treasurer had under the Act automatically retired; after modification of the Articles he was duly re-instated.

Mr Osborn was co-opted a member of Council. On resigning his post as a salaried Officer, Dr West once again became a member of Council, and Mrs Goldney resigned on accepting the post of Organizing Secretary. Mrs Gatty, a co-opted member, was

appointed to fill the vacancy thereby caused among the elected members.

13. PROVISION OF LECTURERS

The large number of requests to provide lecturers, received from many different kinds of bodies and societies in various parts of the country, is a welcome sign of a widespread and intelligent interest in psychical research. A notable example is that of the Goldsmiths' College which, after a successful course of six lectures two years ago, asked the Society to provide lecturers for a second course this autumn. This the Society gladly did. The Society endeavours to meet all such requests as far as practicable.

14. IMPROVEMENTS TO THE ROOMS

Both the Library and the Council Room, which had not been painted for some years before the War and had become very dingy, have been re-painted in white and are much more agreeable places to work in. The storage rooms in the basement are being overhauled, and much-needed storage space obtained by the scrapping of useless lumber and of accumulations of papers that no longer have any interest.

15. MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOCIETY

During the year 121 new Members, 8 Student-Associates, and one Hon. Associate were elected. The total loss in membership from deaths, resignations and other causes, was 91 Members and 6 Associates, leaving a net increase of 33 in the total membership, which now, including Hon. and Corresponding Members (14) and Hon. Associates (13), stands at 980.

16. SPECIAL MEETINGS FOR NEW MEMBERS

Members elected during 1949 and living within reach of London were invited to the Society's rooms on 3 December to meet members of the Council and leading research workers. Twenty-nine new members were able to attend. After tea, and an hour allowed for conversation, there was an informal 'Brains Trust' with 'Any Questions' on psychical research put by the guests. The infra-red telescope was also inspected in the séance room. Many appreciative letters were received from the guests and it is hoped to repeat the occasion for members elected during 1950.

Dr.

FREDERIC W. H. MYERS MEMORIAL FUND

Cr.

EXPENDITURE		INCOME	
1948	1948		
To Ninth Myers Memorial Lecture :		By Interest on Investments (net)	£21 2 6
£144 Printing - - - - -	£421	" Income Tax Recovered and Recoverable	10 2 6
5 " Lantern slides - - - - -	10	" Interest on Deposit Account	0 3 11
" Balance, Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year	£40 3 7	" Sale of Lectures	8 14 8
		" Balance, Excess of Expenditure over Income for the year	
£149	£40 3 7	£149	£40 3 7
BLANNERHASSETT RESEARCH FUND			
£30 To Grant to the Society for Psychical Research Endowment	£21	By Interest on Investments (net)	£12 9 3
Fund - - - - -	21	" Income Tax recoverable	10 3 11
Postages - - - - -	£30 0 0		
12 " Balance, Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year	0 3 0	" Balance, Excess of Expenditure over Income for the year	£22 13 2
			7 9 10
£42	£30 3 0	£42	£30 3 0
RESEARCH ENDOWMENT FUND			
£375 To Salaries :		£421 By Interest on Investments (net)	£406 3 8
245 Research Officer - - - - -	£312 10 0	" Income Tax recovered and recoverable	111 10 4
" Secretarial assistance - - - - -	262 0 0	" Grant from Blennerhassett Fund	30 0 0
		" Donations	- - - - -
18 " Combined Index, Part III - - - - -	£574 10 0	142 " Balance, Excess of Expenditure over Income for the year	£547 14 0
37 " Sitings with Mediums - - - - -	264 18 3		419 13 8
37 " Travelling and General Research Expenses - - - - -	53 7 9		
15 " Mass-Observation for Survey on Hallucinations - - - - -			
7 " Experiments, Mr Nicol and Mr Osborn - - - - -			
" Advertisements for Percipients - - - - -	53 10 0		
" Apparatus - - - - -	20 16 8		
" Contribution towards General Fund Rent - - - - -	0 5 0		
" Sundry Expenses - - - - -			
£734	£967 7 8	£734	£967 7 8

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER, 1949—(cont'd)

GENERAL FUND

EXPENDITURE		INCOME	
To Office Expenses :		By Subscriptions :	
£240	Rent - - - - -	Members	1947 - £2 2 1
67	Rates - - - - -	1948 -	109 7 9
22	Insurance - - - - -	1949 -	1,381 0 6
81	Fuel and lighting - - - - -		£1,492 10 4
275	Salary—Secretary - - - - -	Associates	1947 - £1 1 0
15	Clerical assistance - - - - -	1948 -	13 14 0
	Cleaning and Caretaker's - - - - -	1949 -	80 17 0
	Wages and Uniform - - - - -		
	National Insurance - - - - -		95 12 0
261	Stationery and General Printing - - - - -		£1,588 2 4
138	Telephone - - - - -		
22	Postages - - - - -	Proportion of Life Members' Subscriptions	- - - 105 0 0
146	Repairs - - - - -	Interest on Investments (net)	- - - 203 10 7
188	Sundry Expenses - - - - -	Income Tax Recovered and Recoverable	- - - 76 9 9
25		Contributions towards Rent	- - - 37 10 0
£1,480			
	Printing and Binding Publications and Purchase of Books :		
£356	Proceedings - - - - -		
299	Journal - - - - -		
208	Pamphlets - - - - -		
	Other Books- - - - -		
£863			
175	Less Proceeds of Sales - - - - -		
£688			
39	Expenses of Meetings - - - - -		
175	Pension—Miss I. Newton- - - - -		
21	Audit Fee - - - - -		
27	Library - - - - -		
17	Legal Expenses - - - - -		
59	Apparatus, Recording Machine - - - - -		
£2,506	Total Ordinary Expenditure - - - - -		
		Total Ordinary Income	- - - £2,010 12 8
		Donations (Special Appeal) :	
		Life Members - - - - -	£96 6 1
		Members - - - - -	266 13 5
		Associates - - - - -	19 14 0
			- - - -
		Donations as per Schedule	- - - -
		Balance, Excess of Expenditure over Income for the year	- - - -
			382 13 6
			44 10 0
			148 7 7

BALANCE SHEETS AS AT 31 DECEMBER, 1949

FREDERIC W. H. MYERS MEMORIAL FUND

LIABILITIES		ASSETS	
1948		1948	
Balance at 1 January 1949	- - -	Cash at Bank	- - -
Add Excess of Income over Expenditure	£1,164 18 5	Income Tax Recoverable	- - -
	40 3 7	Investments at Book Value as per Schedule	£93 3 3
	<hr/>		5 1 3
			1,106 17 6
			<hr/>
			£1,205 2 0
			<hr/>
			£1,205 2 0
			<hr/>
			£1,165
			<hr/>
			£1,165
			<hr/>

BLENNERHASSET RESEARCH FUND

[illegible]

RESEARCH ENDOWMENT FUND

[illegible]

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER, 1949

GENERAL FUND

1948	LIABILITIES		CURRENT ASSETS	
	1948		1948	
£100	Annual Subscriptions and Special Appeal received in advance -	£140 16 0	Cash at Bank and in hand -	£843 7 3
151	Sundry Creditors -	556 16 1	Amount not yet received for Sales of Publications -	20 9 5
	Life Membership Account -	-	Income Tax Recoverable -	45 5 8
	Balance at 1 January 1949 -	£1,202 5 0	Payments in Advance -	7 3 11
	Add Life Subscriptions received during year to date -	105 0 0	Investments at Book Value, as per Schedule -	£9,585 12 10
				£10,501 19 1
1,202	Less Transfer to Income and Expenditure Account -	£1,307 5 0	FIXED ASSETS	
		105 0 0	Office Furniture etc. at cost less Sales -	£121 18 8
	Balance being 50% of existing Life Members' Subscriptions -	£1,202 5 0	(Purchases prior to 31 December 1946 remaining unvalued).	
			Additions to Furniture during year -	18 15 4
100	Special Donations			
	Unexpended balances as at 1 January 1949 -	99 10 0	Less Sales -	£140 14 0
	General Fund			11 7 0
	Balance at 1 January 1949 -	£8,780 6 7	LIBRARY BOOKS, EXPERIMENTAL AND TECHNICAL APPARATUS	
8,780	Less Excess of Expenditure over Income for the year -	148 7 7		Not valued
£10,333		£10,333 6 1		£10,631 6 1

Report of the Auditors to the Members of the Society for Psychical Research :

We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit. In our opinion proper books of account have been kept by the Society so far as appears from our examination of those books. We have examined the above Balance Sheet and annexed Income and Expenditure Accounts which are in agreement with the books of account. In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given us the said Accounts give the information required by the Companies Act 1948 in the manner so required and the Balance Sheet gives a true and fair view of the state of the Society's affairs at 31 December 1949 and the Income and Expenditure Accounts give a true and fair view of the Society's revenue transactions during the year ended on that date. We have also verified the investments of the General, Research Endowment, Myers Memorial, and Blennerhassett Research Funds.

MIALL, HARPER & Co.
Chartered Accountants,
9 Idol Lane, Eastcheap, E.C. 3

SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS

	Nominal	Book Value	Value 31 December 1949
MYERS MEMORIAL FUND			
3½% Conversion Stock 1961 - - -	£250 0 0	£287 10 0	£233 15 0
3% Savings Bonds 1960/70 - - -	750 0 0	819 7 6	726 0 0
		<u>£1,106 17 6</u>	<u>£959 15 0</u>
BLENNERHASSETT RESEARCH FUND			
British Transport 3% Guaranteed Stock 1978/88 - - - - -	1,510 10 10	<u>£1,510 0 0</u>	<u>£1,355 14 6</u>
RESEARCH ENDOWMENT FUND			
4% Consols - - - - -	1,460 0 0	£1,699 1 6	£1,481 18 0
3% Funding Stock 1959/69 - - -	2,300 0 0	2,504 2 6	2,236 15 0
3½% War Stock 1952 or after - - -	800 0 0	864 0 0	736 0 0
British Transport 3% Guaranteed Stock 1978/88 - - - - -	6,626 1 5	6,472 17 11	5,946 17 10
British Transport 3% Guaranteed Stock 1967/72 - - - - -	514 0 0	539 14 0	478 0 5
3% Defence Bonds - - - - -	600 0 0	670 5 0	613 10 0
3% Savings Bonds 1960/70 - - -	3,157 9 2	3,449 9 5	3,054 9 3
2½% Australia Stock 1967/71 - - -	995 2 9	1,040 10 0	899 3 7
2½% Consolidated Stock - - - - -	504 3 8	403 10 0	354 19 11
		<u>£17,643 10 4</u>	<u>£15,801 14 0</u>
GENERAL FUND			
4% Consolidated Stock - - - - -	86 11 11	£100 15 4	£87 18 0
York 3% Redeemable Stock 1955/65 - - -	800 0 0	848 0 0	764 0 0
Australia 3% Stock 1955/58 - - -	250 0 0	262 10 0	253 15 0
Nigeria 3% Stock 1955 - - - - -	1,200 0 0	1,272 0 0	1,218 0 0
East India Railway Deferred Annuity Class D - - - - -	23 8 0	590 17 0	538 4 0
3% Savings Bonds 1960/70 - - -	3,000 0 0	3,240 2 3	2,902 10 0
3% Savings Bonds 1955/65 - - -	1,664 12 4	1,703 10 3	1,651 9 8
Australia 3½% Registered Stock 1965/69	1,500 0 0	1,567 18 0	1,468 2 6
		<u>£9,585 12 10</u>	<u>£8,883 19 2</u>

SCHEDULE OF DONATIONS

J. Carrick - - - - -	£0 5 0
Mrs T. Cocks - - - - -	3 3 0
H. C. Parry - - - - -	1 0 0
D. Parsons - - - - -	5 0 0
J. D. Race - - - - -	1 0 0
Dr A. J. C. Robertson - - - - -	2 0 0
W. H. Salter - - - - -	2 2 0
Prof. F. J. M. Stratton - - - - -	15 0 0
The Rev. C. Drayton Thomas - - - - -	15 0 0
	<u>£44 10 0</u>

17. PUBLICATIONS

Two Parts and an Appendix of *Proceedings* were issued during the year—Part 176, Appendix to Part 176, and Part 177—and Part III of the *Combined Index*. Six numbers of the *Journal* were published, of which two were in the new public series. In November was published *Psychical Research: A Selective Guide to Publications in English* (price 6d.).

The Secretary's sales to the general public amounted to £91 11s. 2d. and to members of the Society £132 14s. 1d. The sales in the United States to members and the general public amounted to £40 14s. 7d. The total of £264 19s. 10d. is the highest in the history of the Society.

18. MEETINGS

General Meeting

8 June Reception, and Presidential Address by Professor Gardner Murphy.

Private Meetings

- 10 Jan. 'Personality Tests in Psychical Research' by Dr R. H. Thouless.
- 28 Jan. 'An Account of a Recent Visit to the Parapsychology Laboratory of Duke University' by Dr R. H. Thouless.
- 24 Feb. Annual General Meeting.
'How Do Birds Navigate? An Account of Recent Experiments with Homing Pigeons' by Dr A. J. C. Wilson.
- 5 Mar. 'The Use of Physical Instruments in Psychical Research' by Dr Richard Wilson.
- 15 Mar. 'Dowsing' by Major C. A. Pogson, M.C.
- 8 Apl. 'The Limits of Sense Perception' by Mr M. Hansel.
- 23 Apl. 'Is a Scientific Approach to Psychical Research desirable and possible?' by Mr Christopher Scott.
- 23 May 'The Influence of Unconscious Perceptions' by Dr D. J. West.
- 30 Aug. 'Some Recent Experiments in Hypnotism' by Dr I. Fletcher.
- 15 Sep. 'Report on Some Experiments on Psychokinesis and Extra-sensory Perception' by Dr R. H. Thouless.
- 29 Sep. 'Idealism—Has it been Refuted?' by Dr William Brown.
- 22 Oct. 'Some Impressions of Psychical Research in the United States' by Dr D. J. West.

- 3 Nov. 'Rudi Schneider' by Lord Charles Hope.
17 Nov. 'Psychical Research as seen by a Physical Chemist' by
Dr P. H. Plesch.
1 Dec. 'Some Attempts to Hoax the S.P.R.' by Mr W. H.
Salter.
15 Dec. 'Dissociation and its Bearing on the Survival Hypo-
thesis' by Mr W. E. Manning.
-

GROUP E.S.P. EXPERIMENTS

AN APPEAL TO MEMBERS

IN an attempt to discover promising subjects, the Quantitative Committee have drawn up a plan for the carrying out of simple E.S.P. tests by members of the Society. The object of this plan is to have E.S.P. tests applied to as large a number of subjects as possible. The Committee have prepared an instruction sheet for the use of members taking part in the scheme, and printed score sheets and packs of Zener cards will also be supplied, the former gratis, the latter on loan. Mr G. W. Fisk has kindly consented to act as organizer of the scheme, and all members who wish to obtain particulars should address inquiries to him as follows :

G. W. FISK,
6 DITTON GRANGE CLOSE,
DITTON HILL, SURREY.

It is of the utmost importance that every effort should be made to discover subjects who can maintain a significant rate of scoring, so that further and more elaborate experiments may be carried out.

SYMPOSIUM ON PARANORMAL PHENOMENA

FURTHER evidence of the recognition of parapsychology as a field of study for the scientific world was provided by the inclusion in the Seventy-eighth Conference of the Society for Experimental Biology, held at Queen Mary College from 4-6 January, of a symposium on paranormal phenomena.

The chair was taken by Professor A. C. Hardy, F.R.S., and papers were read by Dr E. J. Dingwall ('Psychical research, past and present'), Dr S. G. Soal ('The scientific evidence for extra-sensory perception'), Professor C. D. Broad ('Why psychical research should be of interest to scientists'), and Professor J. B. S. Haldane, F.R.S. ('Are paranormal phenomena compatible with materialism?'). Meetings of the Society for Experimental Biology are private, but a resolution that all the papers read should be published was carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor of the Journal

SIR,—The S.P.R. is in urgent need of capital for its programme of research and for adding to its reserve funds.

In the past the Society has received a number of handsome legacies which enabled it greatly to expand its work. I understand that the original nucleus of the Research Endowment Fund was a legacy of several thousand pounds. The amount of money at the present time, however, available for the Society's work is woefully inadequate, and it was with considerable astonishment that I recently learnt that the Society had made no appeal to members to leave it money in their Wills.

There can be few members who could not spare a pound or two in the form of a legacy, and every gift, however small, is a help to the Society. A small gift could conveniently be that of one year's subscription to the Society.

Gifts by Will have many advantages. No loss of income is felt by the Donor during his life, and beneficiaries who are receiving more than they already have are not inclined to quibble about the legacy. Moreover, by recent legislation, legacies have been relieved of legacy duty.

I feel very strongly that not nearly enough attention is being paid to psychical research in this country and that the importance of this work is not sufficiently widely recognized. By doing more work the Society will be able to increase the status and importance of psychical research, but it can only do this work with much more financial support.

There are many other suggestions one could make, but I call attention here to a method of financial support which is quite painless. I suggest that members should either when preparing their Wills add some such Clause as the following to it, or that they should now instruct their Solicitors to draw a Codicil to their Wills embodying this Clause :

' I bequeath the sum ofpounds to the Society for Psychical Research at present of 31 Tavistock Square, London, W.C. 1 and I declare that the receipt for the same of the Treasurer or other proper officer for the time being of the said Society shall be a complete discharge for my personal representatives '.

ROBERT S. W. POLLARD.

MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

Meetings of the Council were held as follows :

451st 22 October 1949 Chairman : Professor H. H. Price

- 452nd 17 November 1949 Chairman : Adml. the Hon. A. C. Strutt.
453rd 15 December 1949 Chairman : Dr R. H. Thouless.
454th 5 January 1950 Chairman : Adml. the Hon. A. C. Strutt.

MEETINGS OF THE SOCIETY

THE 212th Private Meeting of the Society was held on Thursday, 29 September 1949, at 6.30 p.m., when a lecture entitled ' Idealism —Has it been Refuted?' was given by Dr William Brown.

The 213th Private Meeting of the Society was held on Saturday, 22 October 1949, at 3 p.m., when Dr D. W. West gave a Report on his visit to the United States.

The 214th Private Meeting of the Society was held on Thursday, 3 November 1949, at 6.30 p.m., when a lecture on ' Rudi Schneider ' was given by Lord Charles Hope.

The 215th Private Meeting of the Society was held on Thursday, 17 November 1949, at 6.30 p.m., when a lecture entitled ' Psychical Research as seen by a Physical Chemist ' was given by Dr P. H. Plesch.

The 217th Private Meeting of the Society was held on Thursday, 15 December 1949, at 6.30 p.m., when a lecture entitled ' Dissociation and its Bearing on the Survival Hypothesis ' was given by Mr W. E. Manning.

NEW MEMBERS

(Elected 22 October 1949)

BAILEY, D. R. SHACKLETON, Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge.

CAMMACK, E., 9D Hyde Park Mansions, London, N.W. 1

CARTER, REV. DR L. J., Carew House, St Lawrence Hospital, Bodmin.

CELORIA, F. S. C., 16 Garrick House, Carrington Street, London, W. 1.

COOPER, LT-COL. R., Knightstone, Ottery St Mary, Devon.

DOCKERILL, MISS A. D., 5 Benares Road, Plumstead, London, S.E. 18.

FREND, G. J., Box 175, San Pedro, California, U.S.A.

GRINSTED, H., Nevern, The Avenue, Claygate, Surrey.

LEA, DR P. W. A., 19 Westbourne Street Mews, London, W. 2.

MACMULLAN, C. W., Eton Place, Haverstock Hill, London, N.W.3.

- ROSENTHAL, G. E., Ilkley Lodge, Churchfields, Weybridge, Surrey.
 SCOTT, MRS M., Flint House, 1 Church Street, Cromer, Norfolk.
 STAVELEY, MISS A., 2 Gorton Road, Willerby, nr Hull, Yorks.
 WALTON, E. B., 6 Southey Street, Elwood, Melbourne, S. 3, Australia.
 WEIR, J. M., Lyndhurst, Heath Way, Effingham Common, Surrey.
 WEIR, MRS J. M., Lyndhurst, Heath Way, Effingham Common, Surrey.

Student-Associate

- Turner, M. E., Box 6116, College Station, Durham, North Carolina, U.S.A.

(Elected 17 November 1949)

- BLAKE, T. A., 25 Sandhurst Road, Bexley, Kent.
 EVERETT, EDWARD B., 9 Orange Mansions, London Road, Ewell, Surrey.
 GROVER, S. R., 85 Victoria Street, Grimsby, Lincs.
 LEON, DAVID T., Hill Cottage, 63 West Street, Ewell, Surrey.
 McCANN, R. C. C., Recruiting Publicity Bureau, Governors Island, New York City 4, U.S.A.
 MERTON, REGINALD, Broom Hill House, Boars Hill, Oxford.
 ROGERS, M. N.
 SCOTT MAXWELL, P. D., Woodview, Bardsea, Ulverston, Lancs.
 SHANN, A. V., 17 Victoria Square, London, S.W. 1.

Student-Associate

- Steel, F., 27 Sydney Grove, Hendon, London, N.W. 4.

(Elected 15 December 1949)

- BANTOCK, RAYMOND, M.A., The Grey Cottage, Barnt Green, nr Birmingham.
 BATES, E. K., Jr., 907W Club Boulevard, Durham, North Carolina, U.S.A.
 FEARON, MRS A. C., 6 Belgrave Road, Seaford, Sussex.
 MORGAN JONES, DR R., 104 Manor Green Road, Epsom, Surrey.
 MOSS, W. H., 45 Ashfield Road, Chorley, Lancs.
 NOAKES, MISS CECILE M., Court Lodge, Shorne, nr Gravesend, Kent.
 VISWANATHAN, A., M.Sc., 6 Mailai Ranganathan Street, T. Nagar, Madras, S. India.
 WILLIAMS, MISS V. M., Rectory Flat, Spaxton, Bridgwater, Somerset.

Student-Associates

Clark, J. Montague, 9 Browning Road, Harpenden, Herts.
Parker, M. T., Connaught Hall, Wessex Lane, Swaythling,
Southampton.

(Elected 5 January 1950)

COWELL, MRS D. M. Z., 30 Wish Road, Hove 3, Sussex.
GLEADOW, MRS H., 33 Cheyne Walk, London, S.W. 3.
HODGE, CHARLES W. L., 31 Water Eaton Road, Bletchley, Bucks.
McEWAN, P. J. M., 193 Chiltern Court, Baker Street, London,
N.W. 1.
TINKLER, J. D., 12 Mill Dam Lane, Burscough Town, Lancs.

BINDING CASES

Binding cases for Volume 48 of *Proceedings* (Parts 172-6, 1946-9) are now available, price 2s. 6d. each. Cases for Volume 34 of the *Journal* (Nos. 631-49, 1947-8,) can be supplied at the same price. Orders should be sent to the Secretary, who will also be glad to supply (gratis) the title-page/index for either volume to members who have mislaid their own.

